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COUNTY ESTIMATES

All Cattle and Calves, Beef Cows and Milk Cows

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This report continues the livestock county estimates data series for all cattle and beef cows. Milk cows were added in 2004. Data for this report is obtained from the National January 1 Cattle Inventory Survey supplemented by the Livestock County Estimates Survey which was mailed to all cattle operations in the state that were excluded from the National survey.

There was a mild break in the drought that has gripped the state the past few years resulting in an increase in the cattle inventory in Colorado of 4% to 2.5 million head as of January 1, 2005. However, this was down 6% from the cattle inventory of two years ago. The beef cow inventory, at 639,000 head as of January 1, 2005, was up 4 percent from a year earlier, but down 9% from two years ago.

Weld County, with 505,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2005, was the leading cattle county in the state with 20 percent of the state's total inventory of 2.50 million head of all cattle and calves. The county has a number of large commercial feedlots and large dairy operations which contribute to the leading cattle county ranking. Weld County had the second largest number of beef cows, at 42,000, which are included in the all cattle total. The 42,000 head of beef cows represented nearly 7 percent of the state's total beef cow inventory of 639,000 head. Weld County far surpassed any other county in Colorado in the number of milk cows with 57,700, or 57% of the total of 101,000 milk cows in the state.

Yuma County and **Morgan County**, are a close second and third for all cattle and calf inventory in the state with 250,000 and 242,000 head, respectively. Like Weld County, both Morgan County and Yuma County are home to several large commercial feedlots and dairy operations. Yuma County has the state's largest inventory of beef cattle with 53,000 head, or 8% of the state's total. **Logan County** is ranked fourth in Colorado in all cattle inventory as well as beef cow inventory with totals of 185,000 head and 27,000 head, respectively, as of January 1, 2005. The county is just slightly behind the 28,000 head of beef cows in **Las Animas County**. **Kit Carson County**, another large cattle feeding county, placed fifth in all cattle and calves with 148,000 head, but the inventory of 19,000 head of beef cows ranked seventh in the state.

Prowers County, with 110,000 head, was the only other county in the state with 100,000 or more cattle and calves and was the sixth largest cattle county in the state. Prowers County had just 13,000 head of beef cows, ranking well down in the range of many other counties. The counties of **Otero** (65,000 head), **Washington** (60,000 head), **Baca** (56,000) and **Crowley** (48,000 head) complete the list of the top ten counties in the state for all cattle and calves.

The January 1, 2005 inventory in the top ten counties totaled 1,669,000 head of all cattle and calves and represented nearly 67 percent of the total cattle inventory in the state. The top ten counties with beef cows had a combined inventory of 269,000 head, representing 42 percent of the state's total inventory of 639,000 head. Following Yuma County, Weld County, Las Animas and Logan County which claimed the top four positions, respectively, were: **Morgan and Moffat Counties** with 21,000 head each, **Washington County**, with 20,000 head; **Lincoln, Elbert and Kit Carson Counties**, each with 19,000 head.

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All Cattle and Calves, Beef Cows and Milk Cows: Inventory by county and district, Colorado						
County and District	All Cattle and Calves		Beef Cows		Milk Cows	
	January 1, 2004	January 1, 2005	January 1, 2004	January 1, 2005	January 1, 2004	January 1, 2005
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chaffee	5,000	6,000	3,500	3,500	...	...
Clear Creek	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle	5,500	6,000	2,500	3,000	...	...
Gilpin	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand	13,500	18,000	7,000	9,000	...	...
Gunnison	16,000	19,000	9,000	10,000	...	...
Jackson	25,000	24,000	16,000	15,500	...	...
Lake	200	...	...	...	...	...
Moffat	29,000	32,000	20,000	21,000	...	...
Park	7,800	8,000	4,500	5,000	...	...
Pitkin	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	...	...
Rio Blanco	19,500	21,000	12,500	13,000	...	...
Routt	24,000	26,000	12,000	12,000	...	...
Summit	1,500	2,000	1,000	1,000	...	...
Teller	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	...	...
NW & Mountain	150,000	165,000	90,000	95,000	...	...
Boulder	11,000	11,000	4,000	4,500	...	...
Jefferson	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,500	...	...
Larimer	42,000	40,000	8,000	8,500	11,500	10,500
Logan	179,000	185,000	25,000	27,000	...	...
Morgan	251,000	242,000	21,500	21,000	12,500	15,000
Sedgwick	14,500	15,000	5,000	5,500	...	...
Weld	520,000	505,000	45,000	42,000	54,800	57,700
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	1,200	1,300
Northeast	1,020,000	1,000,000	110,000	110,000	80,000	84,500
Adams	9,000	10,000	3,000	3,000	...	...
Arapahoe	5,000	6,000	3,500	4,000	...	...
Cheyenne	19,000	20,000	10,000	11,000	...	...
Denver	...	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas	3,500	4,000	2,500	2,500	...	...
Elbert	31,000	36,000	17,000	19,000	...	...
El Paso	24,000	26,000	14,000	15,000	...	...
Kiowa	14,000	15,000	10,000	10,500	...	...
Kit Carson	127,000	148,000	19,000	19,000	...	...
Lincoln	33,000	40,000	21,000	19,000	...	...
Phillips	31,500	30,000	4,000	4,000	...	...
Washington	58,000	60,000	21,000	20,000	...	...
Yuma	245,000	250,000	50,000	53,000	...	...
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	9,000	8,500
East Central	600,000	645000	175,000	180,000	9,000	8,500
Archuleta	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500	...	...
Delta	26,000	23,000	12,000	13,000	1,300	1,300
Dolores	2,500	3,000	1,500	2,000	...	...
Garfield	20,500	22,000	11,000	13,000	...	...
Hinsdale	1,000	1,000	500	500	...	...
La Plata	17,000	19,000	9,000	8,500	...	...
Mesa	37,000	39,000	17,000	16,000	...	...
Montezuma	16,500	15,000	10,000	10,500	...	...
Montrose	33,500	41,000	15,000	16,500	2,600	2,000
Ouray	5,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	...	...
San Juan	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Miguel	6,000	6,000	3,500	4,500	...	...
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	900	500
Southwest	170,000	180,000	85,000	90,000	4,800	3,800
Alamosa	8,500	9,500	5,000	5,500	...	...
Conejos	23,000	27,000	15,000	16,000	...	...
Costilla	7,000	6,500	5,000	4,500	...	...
Mineral	500	...	...	...	...	...----
Rio Grande	11,000	12,000	6,000	8,000	...	...
Saguache	20,000	20,000	11,000	10,000	...	...
San Luis Valley	70,000	75,000	42,000	44,000	...	...
Baca	47,000	56,000	14,000	17,000	...	...
Bent	47,000	45,000	15,500	16,500	...	...
Crowley	31,000	48,000	6,000	5,000	...	...
Custer	5,000	7,000	3,000	3,500	...	...
Fremont	10,000	11,000	4,500	4,500	2,300	2,300
Huerfano	9,000	13,000	6,000	5,500	...	...
Las Animas	42,000	47,000	26,000	28,000	...	...
Otero	64,000	65,000	9,000	10,000	...	...
Prowers	105,000	110,000	11,000	13,000	...	...
Pueblo	30,000	33,000	15,000	17,000	...	...
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	1,100	1,100

Southeast	390,000	435,000	110,000	120,000	3,400	3,400
Other Districts	...	...	...	...	800	800
State Total	2,400,000	2,500,000	612,000	639,000	98,000	101,000